GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5312
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
FREE AIR JOURNEYS
BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH;GUNIPATI RAMAIAH;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines/Air India and other airlines, as a measure of incentive, are allowing free journeys both on domestic and international routes;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether a Government official travelling for official purpose can avail benefits of the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the income generated or losses suffered by these airlines under the scheme during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) and (b):- It is a common practice for airlines world over to offer free ticket for journeys under various schemes wherein members can earn bonus points and can redeem them for free tickets. Air India and Indian Airlines have a similar `Joint Frequent Flyer Programme`. Jet Airways also has a similar frequent flyer programme namely `Jet Privilege Programme` wherein members of the programme are awarded JPMiles and can be redeemed for international travel on KLM, NorthWest and British Airways.

Further, Indian Airlines offers international incentive tickets under its `Desh Videsh` Scheme for all passengers who travel on revenue tickets and on the basis of travels made on domestic sectors. Air India also has another `Companion Free Scheme` under which passenger travelling on International Air Travellers Association(IATA) published fares to any international destinations on Air India`s route network except India/Gulf routes can take along a companion free of cost.

(c) and (d):- Yes, Sir. Government servants can accept the free tickets earned by them under such schemes offered by any airline. Whereas, in so far the `Free Companion Scheme` is concerned, the availing of this facility is confined to National Carriers only.

(e):- These schemes have had a positive impact on the airlines high yield traffic and revenue by attracting passengers on their networks.